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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/002,595  | 11/01/2001  | Motasim Sirhan       | 020460-001600US     | 4760             |
| 60168   | 7590        | 06/07/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW LLP<br>AVANTEC VASCULAR CORPORATION (CLIENT # 20460)<br>TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER<br>EIGHTH FLOOR<br>SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834 |             |                      | ISABELLA, DAVID J   |                  |
|   |             | ART UNIT             | PAPER NUMBER        |                  |
|   |             | 3738                 |                     |                  |
| DATE MAILED: 06/07/2006   |             |                      |                     |                  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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| APPLICATION NO./<br>CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR /<br>PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|

EXAMINER

ART UNIT      PAPER

20060529

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

See attached letter.

DAVID J ISABELLA  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3738

***Status of the Application***

Currently, claims 1-7, 74-79, 81, 84-100, 102, 107, 109-111, 116-120, 122, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132-169, 171-197, 199-237, 272, 274, and 275 are pending in the present application. Claims 74, 81, 84, 116-118, 130, 142-144, 150, and 191 have been amended. Claims 80, 82, 83, 112-115, 121, 123-125, 128, and 131 have been canceled.

The previous examiner has left the office and this application is now under the review of a new examiner, David J. Isabella (Primary Examiner). Accordingly, after reviewing the prosecution history of the application, examiner notes that applicant has responded to four separate restrictions.

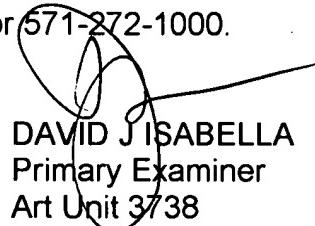
The application was originally filed with 271 claims and the previous examiner required a first restriction between two groups: Group I, claims 1-7, 10-271 and Group II, claims 8 and 9. The second restriction appears to redraw the separation of the claims into two groups: Group I, claims 1-7, 74-271 and Group II, claims 8-73. A third restriction appeared to be directed to carving up the elected group into a plurality of species. Upon review of the original specification and restrictions, the instant examiner believes that while the original restrictions appear to be proper the record appears to be confusing. In order to perfect the record, examiner would suggest that applicant recapture the original claims and the examiner will issue a new restriction based on the original claims of the application. However, if applicant believes the record is clear and wishes to proceed on the merits of the elected invention, then applicant is invited to provide such statement in response to this letter.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID J. ISABELLA whose telephone number is 571-272-4749. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CORRINE MCDERMOTT can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



DAVID J ISABELLA  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3738

DJI  
5/29/2006